

brokers to steer clients to Columbia Funds regardless of the funds' investment quality relative to other investment alternatives and to thereby breach their duties of loyalty. By paying the excessive brokerage commissions, the Investment Adviser Defendants additionally violated Section 12 of the Investment Company Act, because such payments were not made pursuant to a valid Rule 12b-1 plan.

55. The excessive commissions did not fund any services that benefited the Columbia Funds shareholders. This practice materially harmed plaintiff and other members of the Class from whom the Soft Dollars and excessive commissions were taken.

56. Additionally, on information and belief, the defendants, similar to other members of the industry, have a practice of charging lower management fees to institutional clients than to ordinary mutual fund investors through their mutual fund holdings. This discriminatory treatment cannot be justified by any additional services to the ordinary investor and constitutes a further breach of fiduciary duties.

57. On January 14, 2004, *The Wall Street Journal* published an article under the headline, "SEC Readies Cases On Mutual Funds' Deals With Brokers." Citing "a person familiar with the investigation," the article noted that the SEC is "close to filing its first charges against mutual fund companies related to arrangements that direct trading commissions to brokerage firms that favor those fund companies' products." The article stated in pertinent part as follows:

The SEC has been probing the business arrangements between fund companies and brokerage firms since last spring. It held a news conference yesterday to announce it has found widespread evidence that brokerage firms steered investors to certain mutual funds because of payments they received from fund companies or their investment advisers as part of sales agreements.

Officials said the agency has opened investigations into eight brokerage firms and a dozen mutual funds that engaged in a

longstanding practice known as "revenue sharing." Agency officials said they expect that number to grow as its probe expands. They declined to name either the funds or the brokerage firms.

The SEC said payments varied between 0.05% and 0.04% of sales and up to 0.25% of assets that remained invested in the fund. [. . .]

People familiar with the investigation say regulators are looking into examples of conflict of interest when fund companies use shareholder money to cover costs of sales agreements instead of paying the sales costs themselves out of the firm's own pockets. The boards of funds, too, could be subject to scrutiny for allowing shareholders' commission dollars to be used for these sales agreements. In other cases, the SEC is probing whether funds violated policies that would require costs associated with marketing a fund to be included in a fund's so-called 12b-1 plan.

Id. (emphasis added).

THE MARCH 22, 2004 DISCLOSURE

58. In a March 22, 2004 supplement dated to numerous Smith Barney Funds

Prospectuses, the following language appeared:

Effective March 22, 2004, the following is added after the first paragraph under the heading "Management -- Distribution plans" in the Prospectuses for each of the Funds listed below:

In addition, the distributors may make payments for distribution and/or shareholder servicing activities out of their past profits and other available sources. The distributors may also make payments for marketing, promotional or related expenses to dealers. The amount of these payments is determined by the distributors and may be substantial. The manager or an affiliate may make similar payments under similar arrangements.

The payments described above are often referred to as "revenue sharing payments." The recipients of such payments may include the funds' distributor and other affiliates of the manager, broker-dealers, financial institutions and other financial intermediaries through which investors may purchase shares of a fund. In some circumstances, such payments may create an incentive for an intermediary or its employees or associated persons to recommend or sell shares of a fund to you. Please contact your

financial intermediary for details about revenue sharing payments it may receive.

[Emphasis added.]

59. The Columbia Funds were identified as one of the mutual fund families that Smith Barney, a division of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. ("CGMI"), brokers were paid to push in a June 2004 press release on the Smith Barney website titled- *Mutual Funds, Revenue Sharing and Other Compensation Disclosure*. (See, http://www.smithbarney.com/products_services/mutual_funds/investor_information/revenueshare.html).

The Prospectuses Were Materially False And Misleading

60. Plaintiff and other members of the Class were entitled to, and did receive, one or more of the prospectuses (the "Prospectuses"), pursuant to which the Columbia Funds shares were offered, each of which contained substantially the same materially false and misleading statements and omissions regarding 12b-1 fees, commissions and Soft Dollars.

61. The Statement of Additional Information dated May 1, 2003, for funds offered by the Investment Advisor Defendants, referred to in certain of the Columbia Funds Prospectuses and available to the investor upon request, states as follows with respect to Soft Dollars and revenue sharing:

The directors reviewed data related to the profitability of the Adviser with respect to its contracts with the Funds and considered the additional benefits to the Adviser as a result of its relationship with the Funds, including soft dollar benefits...

The Funds may purchase their portfolio securities through a securities broker and pay the broker a commission, or they may purchase the securities directly from a dealer which acts as principal and sells securities directly for its own account without charging a commission. The purchase price of securities purchased from dealers serving as market makers will include the spread between the bid and asked prices. The Funds may also purchase securities from underwriters, the price of which will include a commission or discount paid by the issuer to the underwriter.

There is generally no stated commission in the case of fixed income securities that are traded in the over-the-counter market, but the price paid by a Fund usually includes an undisclosed dealer commission or mark-up.

Prompt execution of orders at the most favorable price will be the primary consideration of the Funds in transactions where fees or commissions are involved. Additional factors considered by the Adviser in selecting brokers to execute a transaction include the: (i) professional capability of the executing broker and the value and quality of the brokerage services provided; (ii) size and type of transaction; (iii) timing of transaction in the context of market prices and trends; (iv) nature and character of markets for the security to be purchased or sold; (v) the broker's execution efficiency and settlement capability; (vi) the broker's experience and financial stability and the execution services it renders to the Adviser on a continuing basis; and (vii) reasonableness of commission.

Research, statistical, and other services offered by the broker also may be taken into consideration in selecting broker-dealers. These services may include: advice concerning the value of securities, the advisability of investing in, purchasing, or selling securities, and the availability of securities or the purchasers or sellers of securities; and furnishing analyses and reports concerning issuers, industries, securities, economic factors and trends, portfolio strategies, and performance of accounts. ***A commission in excess of the amount of a commission another broker or dealer would have charged for effecting a transaction may be paid by a Fund if the Adviser determines in good faith that the commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided,*** viewed in terms of either that particular transaction or management's overall responsibilities with respect to the Fund.

The Adviser receives a significant amount of proprietary research from a number of brokerage firms, in most cases on an unsolicited basis. The Adviser does not make any commitments to allocate brokerage for proprietary research. The value of that research, however, is considered along with other factors in the selection of brokers. This research is considered supplemental to the Adviser's own internal research and does not, therefore, materially reduce the overall expenses incurred by the Adviser for its research. ***On a semi-annual basis, the Adviser's research analysts and portfolio managers participate in a detailed internal survey regarding the value of proprietary research and the skills or contributions***

made by the various brokerage analysts to the Adviser's investment process. Firms are then confidentially ranked based on that survey. Brokerage allocations are then made, as much as reasonably possible, based on those rankings.

The Adviser may use a Fund's commissions to acquire third party research or products that are not available through its full-service brokers. In these arrangements, the Adviser pays an executing broker a commission equal to the average rate paid on all other trades and achieves what it believes is best execution on the trade. The executing broker then uses a portion of the commission to pay for a specific research service or product provided to the Adviser. Proposed research to be acquired in this manner must be approved by the Adviser's Soft Dollar Committee which is responsible for determining that the research provides appropriate assistance to the Adviser in connection with its investment management of the Funds and that the price paid with broker commissions is fair and reasonable.

[Emphasis added.]

62. The Prospectuses failed to disclose and misrepresented, *inter alia*, the following material and damaging adverse facts which damaged plaintiff and other members of the Class:

(a) that the Investment Adviser Defendants authorized the payment from fund assets of excessive commissions to broker dealers in exchange for preferential marketing services and that such payments were in breach of their fiduciary duties, in violation of Section 12b of the Investment Company Act, and unprotected by any "safe harbor";

(b) that the Investment Adviser Defendants directed brokerage payments to firms that favored Columbia Funds, which was a form of marketing that was not disclosed in or authorized by the Columbia Funds Rule 12b-1 Plan;

(c) that the Columbia Funds Rule 12b-1 Plan was not in compliance with Rule 12b-1, and that payments made pursuant to the plan were in violation of Section 12 of the Investment Company Act because, among other reasons, the plan was not properly evaluated by

the Director Defendants and there was not a reasonable likelihood that the plan would benefit the company and its shareholders;

(d) that by paying brokers to aggressively steer their clients to the Columbia Funds, the Investment Adviser Defendants were knowingly aiding and abetting a breach of fiduciary duties, and profiting from the brokers' improper conduct;

(e) that any economies of scale achieved by marketing of the Columbia Funds to new investors were not passed on to Columbia Funds investors; on the contrary, as the Columbia Funds grew, fees charged to Columbia Funds investors nevertheless increased;

(f) that defendants improperly used Soft Dollars and excessive commissions, paid from Columbia Funds assets, to pay for overhead expenses the cost of which should have been borne by FleetBoston and not Columbia Funds investors; and

(g) that the Director Defendants had abdicated their duties under the Investment Company Act and their common law fiduciary duties, that they failed to monitor and supervise the Investment Adviser Defendants and that, as a consequence, the Investment Adviser Defendants were able to systematically skim millions and millions of dollars from the Columbia Funds.

COUNT I

Against The Investment Adviser Defendants For Violations Of Section 34(b) Of The Investment Company Act On Behalf Of The Class

63. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained above as if fully set forth herein.

64. This Count is asserted against the Investment Adviser Defendants in their role as investment advisers to the Columbia Funds.

65. The Investment Adviser Defendants made untrue statements of material fact in registration statements and reports filed and disseminated pursuant to the Investment Company Act and omitted to state facts necessary to prevent the statements made therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, from being materially false and misleading. The Investment Adviser Defendants failed to disclose the following:

- (a) that the Investment Adviser Defendants authorized the payment from fund assets of excessive commissions to broker dealers in exchange for preferential marketing services and that such payments were in breach of their fiduciary duties, in violation of Section 12b of the Investment Company Act, and unprotected by any “safe harbor”;
- (b) that the Investment Adviser Defendants directed brokerage payments to firms that favored Columbia Funds, which was a form of marketing that was not disclosed in or authorized by the Columbia Funds Rule 12b-1 Plan;
- (c) that the Columbia Funds Rule 12b-1 Plan was not in compliance with Rule 12b-1, and that payments made pursuant to the plan were in violation of Section 12 of the Investment Company Act because, among other reasons, the plan was not properly evaluated by the Director Defendants and there was not a reasonable likelihood that the plan would benefit the company and its shareholders;
- (d) that by paying brokers to aggressively steer their clients to the Columbia Funds, the Investment Adviser Defendants were knowingly aiding and abetting a breach of fiduciary duties, and profiting from the brokers’ improper conduct;
- (e) that any economies of scale achieved by marketing of the Columbia Funds to new investors were not passed on to Columbia Funds investors; on the contrary, as the Columbia Funds grew, fees charged to Columbia Funds investors increased;

(f) that defendants improperly used Soft Dollars and excessive commissions, paid from Columbia Funds assets, to pay for overhead expenses the cost of which should have been borne by FleetBoston and not Columbia Funds investors; and

(g) that the Director Defendants had abdicated their duties under the Investment Company Act and their common law fiduciary duties, that the Director Defendants failed to monitor and supervise the Investment Adviser Defendants and that, as a consequence, the Investment Adviser Defendants were able to systematically skim millions and millions of dollars from the Columbia Funds.

66. By reason of the conduct described above, the Investment Adviser Defendants violated Section 34(b) of the Investment Company Act.

67. As a direct, proximate and foreseeable result of the Investment Adviser Defendants' violation of Section 34(b) of the Investment Company Act, Columbia Funds investors have incurred damages.

68. Plaintiff and members of the Class have been specially injured by the defendants' violations of Section 34(b) of the Investment Company Act. Such injuries were suffered directly by the shareholders, rather than by the Columbia Funds themselves.

69. The Investment Adviser Defendants, individually and in concert, directly and indirectly, by the use, means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce and/or of the mails, engaged and participated in a continuous course of conduct to conceal such adverse material information.

COUNT II

**Against Columbia Distributors And The Investment Adviser Defendants
Pursuant To Section 36(b) Of The Investment Company Act
Derivatively On Behalf Of The Columbia Funds**

70. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained above and otherwise incorporates the allegations contained above.

71. This Count is brought by the Class (as Columbia Funds securities holders) on behalf of the Columbia Funds against Columbia Distributors and the Investment Adviser Defendants for breaches of Columbia Distributors' and the Investment Adviser Defendants' fiduciary duties as defined by Section 36(b) of the Investment Company Act.

72. Columbia Distributors and the Investment Adviser Defendants each had a fiduciary duty to the Columbia Funds and the Class with respect to the receipt of compensation for services and of payments of a material nature made by and to Columbia Distributors and the Investment Adviser Defendants.

73. Columbia Distributors and the Investment Adviser Defendants violated Section 36(b) by improperly charging investors in the Columbia Funds purported Rule 12b-1 marketing fees, and by drawing on Columbia Funds assets to make undisclosed payments of Soft Dollars and excessive commissions, as defined herein, in violation of Rule 12b-1.

74. By reason of the conduct described above, Columbia Distributors and the Investment Adviser Defendants violated Section 36(b) of the Investment Company Act.

75. As a direct, proximate and foreseeable result of Columbia Distributors' and the Investment Adviser Defendants' breach of the fiduciary duty of loyalty in their respective roles as underwriter and investment advisers to Columbia Funds investors, the Columbia Funds and the Class have incurred millions of dollars in damages.

76. Plaintiff, in this Count, seeks to recover the Rule 12b-1 fees, Soft Dollars, excessive commissions and the management fees charged the Columbia Funds by Columbia Distributors and the Investment Adviser Defendants.

COUNT III

Against FleetBoston, Columbia Group And The Director Defendants (As Control Persons Of The Investment Adviser Defendants) And The Investment Adviser Defendants (As Control Persons Of Columbia Distributors) For Violation Of Section 48(a) Of The Investment Company Act By The Class And Derivatively On Behalf Of The Columbia Funds

77. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained above as if fully set forth herein.

78. This Count is brought pursuant to Section 48(a) of the Investment Company Act against FleetBoston, Columbia Group and the Director Defendants, who caused the Investment Adviser Defendants to commit the violations of the Investment Company Act alleged herein. It is appropriate to treat these defendants as a group for pleading purposes and to presume that the misconduct complained of herein is the collective actions of FleetBoston, Columbia Group and the Director Defendants.

79. The Investment Adviser Defendants are liable under Section 34(b) of the Investment Company Act to the Class and under Section 36(b) of the Investment Company Act to the Columbia Funds as set forth herein.

80. FleetBoston, Columbia Group and the Director Defendants were "control persons" of the Investment Adviser Defendants and caused the violations complained of herein. By virtue of their positions of operational control and/or authority over the Investment Adviser Defendants, FleetBoston, Columbia Group and the Director Defendants directly and indirectly,

had the power and authority, and exercised the same, to cause the Investment Adviser Defendants to engage in the wrongful conduct complained of herein.

81. Pursuant to Section 48(a) of the Investment Company Act, by reason of the foregoing, FleetBoston, Columbia Group and the Director Defendants are liable to plaintiff to the same extent as are the Investment Adviser Defendants for their primary violations of Sections 34(b) and 36(b) of the Investment Company Act.

82. This Count is also brought pursuant to Section 48(a) of the Investment Company Act against the Investment Adviser Defendants, who caused Columbia Distributors to commit the violations of the Investment Company Act alleged herein. It is appropriate to treat these defendants as a group for pleading purposes and to presume that the misconduct complained of herein is the collective actions of the Investment Adviser Defendants.

83. Columbia Distributors is liable under Section 36(b) of the Investment Company Act to the Columbia Funds as set forth herein.

84. The Investment Adviser Defendants were "control persons" of Columbia Distributors and caused the violations complained of herein. By virtue of their positions of operational control and/or authority over Columbia Distributors, the Investment Adviser Defendants directly and indirectly, had the power and authority, and exercised the same, to cause Columbia Distributors to engage in the wrongful conduct complained of herein.

85. Pursuant to Section 48(a) of the Investment Company Act, by reason of the foregoing, the Investment Adviser Defendants are liable to plaintiff to the same extent as is Columbia Distributors for its primary violations of Section 36(b) of the Investment Company Act.

86. By virtue of the foregoing, plaintiff and the other Class members are entitled to damages against FleetBoston, Columbia Group, the Director Defendants, Columbia Distributors and the Investment Adviser Defendants.

COUNT IV

Against The Investment Adviser Defendants Under Section 215 Of The Investment Advisers Act For Violations Of Section 206 Of The Investment Advisers Act Derivatively On Behalf Of The Columbia Funds

87. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained above as if fully set forth herein.

88. This Count is based upon Section 215 of the Investment Advisers Act, 15 U.S.C. §80b-15.

89. The Investment Adviser Defendants served as “investment advisers” to the Columbia Funds and other members of the Class pursuant to the Investment Advisers Act.

90. As fiduciaries pursuant to the Investment Advisers Act, the Investment Adviser Defendants were required to serve the Columbia Funds in a manner in accordance with the federal fiduciary standards set forth in Section 206 of the Investment Advisers Act, 15 U.S.C. §80b-6, governing the conduct of investment advisers.

91. During the Class Period, the Investment Adviser Defendants breached their fiduciary duties to the Columbia Funds by engaging in a deceptive contrivance, scheme, practice and course of conduct pursuant to which they knowingly and/or recklessly engaged in acts, transactions, practices and courses of business which operated as a fraud upon the Columbia Funds. As detailed above, the Investment Adviser Defendants skimmed money from the

Columbia Funds by charging and collecting fees from the Columbia Funds in violation of the Investment Company Act and the Investment Advisers Act. The purpose and effect of said scheme, practice and course of conduct was to enrich the Investment Adviser Defendants, among other defendants, at the expense of the Columbia Funds. The Investment Adviser Defendants breached their fiduciary duties owed to the Columbia Funds by engaging in the aforesaid transactions, practices and courses of business knowingly or recklessly so as to constitute a deceit and fraud upon the Columbia Funds.

92. The Investment Adviser Defendants are liable as direct participants in the wrongs complained of herein. The Investment Adviser Defendants, because of their position of authority and control over the Columbia Funds were able to and did control the fees charged to and collected from the Columbia Funds and otherwise control the operations of the Columbia Funds.

93. The Investment Adviser Defendants had a duty to (1) disseminate accurate and truthful information with respect to the Columbia Funds; and (2) truthfully and uniformly act in accordance with their stated policies and fiduciary responsibilities to the Columbia Funds. The Investment Adviser Defendants participated in the wrongdoing complained of herein in order to prevent the Columbia Funds from knowing of the Investment Adviser Defendants' breaches of fiduciary duties including: (1) the charging of the Columbia Funds and Columbia Funds investors improper Rule 12b-1 marketing fees; (2) making improper undisclosed payments of Soft Dollars; (3) making unauthorized use of "directed brokerage" as a marketing tool; and (4) charging the Columbia Funds for excessive and improper commission payments to brokers.

94. As a result of the Investment Advisers' multiple breaches of their fiduciary duties owed to the Columbia Funds, the Columbia Funds were damaged.

95. The Columbia Funds are entitled to rescind their investment advisory contracts with the Investment Adviser Defendants and recover all fees paid in connection with such agreements.

COUNT V

**Breach Of Fiduciary Duty Against The Investment
Adviser Defendants On Behalf Of The Class**

96. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the preceding allegations as though fully set forth herein.

97. As investment advisers to the Columbia Funds, the Investment Adviser Defendants were fiduciaries to plaintiff and other members of the Class and were required to act with the highest obligations of good faith, loyalty, fair dealing, due care and candor.

98. As set forth above, the Investment Adviser Defendants breached their fiduciary duties to plaintiff and the Class.

99. Plaintiff and the Class have been specially injured as a direct, proximate and foreseeable result of such breach on the part of the Investment Adviser Defendants and have suffered substantial damages.

100. Because the Investment Adviser Defendants acted with reckless and willful disregard for the rights of plaintiff and other members of the Class, the Investment Adviser Defendants are liable for punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the jury.

COUNT VI

**Breach Of Fiduciary Duty Against The Director
Defendants On Behalf Of The Class**

101. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the preceding allegations as though fully set forth herein.

102. As Columbia Funds Directors, the Director Defendants had a fiduciary duty to the Columbia Funds and Columbia Funds investors to supervise and monitor the Investment Adviser Defendants.

103. The Director Defendants breached their fiduciary duties by reason of the acts alleged herein, including their knowing or reckless failure to prevent the Investment Adviser Defendants from (1) charging the Columbia Funds and Columbia Funds investors improper Rule 12b-1 marketing fees; (2) making improper undisclosed payments of Soft Dollars; (3) making unauthorized use of “directed brokerage” as a marketing tool; and (4) charging the Columbia Funds for excessive and improper commission payments to brokers.

104. Plaintiff and the Class have been specially injured as a direct, proximate and foreseeable result of such breach on the part of the Investment Adviser Defendants and have suffered substantial damages.

105. Because the Investment Adviser Defendants acted with reckless and willful disregard for the rights of plaintiff and the other members of the Class, the Investment Adviser Defendants are liable for punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the jury.

COUNT VII

Aiding And Abetting A Breach Of Fiduciary Duty Against The Investment Adviser Defendants On Behalf Of The Class

106. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the preceding allegations as though fully set forth herein.

107. At all times herein, the broker dealers that sold Columbia Funds had fiduciary duties of loyalty to their clients, including plaintiff and the other members of the Class.

108. The Investment Adviser Defendants knew or should have known that the broker dealers had these fiduciary duties.

109. By accepting improper Rule 12b-1 fees, Soft Dollars and excessive commissions in exchange for aggressively pushing Columbia Funds, and by failing to disclose the receipt of such fees, the brokerages breached their fiduciary duties to plaintiff and the other members of the Class.

110. The Investment Adviser Defendants possessed actual or constructive knowledge that the brokerages were breaching their fiduciary duties, but nonetheless perpetrated the fraudulent scheme alleged herein.

111. The Investment Adviser Defendants' actions, as described in this complaint, were a substantial factor in causing the losses suffered by plaintiff and the other members of the Class. By participating in the brokerages' breaches of fiduciary duties, the Investment Adviser Defendants are liable therefor.

112. As a direct, proximate and foreseeable result of the Investment Adviser Defendants' knowing participation in the brokerages' breaches of fiduciary duties, plaintiff and the Class have suffered damages.

113. Because the Investment Adviser Defendants acted with reckless and willful disregard for the rights of plaintiff and the other members of the Class, the Investment Adviser Defendants are liable for punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

(A) Determining that this action is a proper class action and certifying plaintiff as the Class representative and plaintiff's counsel as Class counsel pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

(B) Awarding compensatory damages in favor of plaintiff and the other Class members against all defendants, jointly and severally, for all damages sustained as a result of defendants' wrongdoing, in an amount to be proven at trial, including interest thereon;

(C) Awarding punitive damages in favor of plaintiff and the other Class members against all defendants, jointly and severally, for all damages sustained as a result of defendants' wrongdoing, in an amount to be proven at trial, including interest thereon;

(D) Awarding the Columbia Funds rescission of their contracts with the Investment Adviser Defendants, including recovery of all fees which would otherwise apply, and recovery of all fees paid to the Investment Adviser Defendants;

(E) Ordering an accounting of all Columbia Funds-related fees, commissions, and Soft Dollar payments;

(F) Ordering restitution of all unlawfully or discriminatorily obtained fees and charges;

(G) Awarding such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper, including any extraordinary equitable and/or injunctive relief as permitted by law or equity to attach, impound or otherwise restrict the defendants' assets to assure that plaintiff and the Class have an effective remedy;

(H) Awarding plaintiff and the Class their reasonable costs and expenses incurred in this action, including counsel fees and expert fees; and

(I) Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

Dated: August 11, 2004

GILMAN AND PASTOR, LLP



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(610) 667-7706

Counsel for Plaintiff and the Class

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

1. Title of case (name of first party on each side only) PAULA SLICKER v. FLEETBOSTON
FINANCIAL CORPORATION, ET AL.

2. Category in which the case belongs based upon the numbered nature of suit code listed on the civil cover sheet. (See local rule 40.1(a)(1)).

☐ I. 160, 410, 470, R.23, REGARDLESS OF NATURE OF SUIT.

☒ II. 195, 368, 400, 440, 441-444, 540, 550, 555, 625, 710, 720, 730,
740, 790, 791, 820*, 830*, 840*, 850, 890, 892-894, 895, 950.

*Also complete AO 120 or AO 121
for patent, trademark or copyright cases

☐ III. 110, 120, 130, 140, 151, 190, 210, 230, 240, 245, 290, 310,
315, 320, 330, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 362, 365, 370, 371,
380, 385, 450, 891.

☐ IV. 220, 422, 423, 430, 460, 510, 530, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660,
690, 810, 861-865, 870, 871, 875, 900.

☐ V. 150, 152, 153.

3. Title and number, if any, of related cases. (See local rule 40.1(g)). If more than one prior or related case has been filed in this district please indicate the title and number of the first filed case in this court.

Lockman v. FleetBoston Financial Corporation.
No. 04-11704-REK

4. Has a prior action between the same parties and based on the same claim ever been filed in this court?

YES ☐ NO ☒

5. Does the complaint in this case question the constitutionality of an act of congress affecting the public interest? (See 28 USC §2403)

YES ☐ NO ☒

If so, is the U.S.A. or an officer, agent or employee of the U.S. a party?

YES ☐ NO ☒

6. Is this case required to be heard and determined by a district court of three judges pursuant to title 28 USC §2284?

YES ☐ NO ☒

7. Do all of the parties in this action, excluding governmental agencies of the united states and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("governmental agencies"), residing in Massachusetts reside in the same division? - (See Local Rule 40.1(d)).

YES ☒ NO ☐

A. If yes, in which division do all of the non-governmental parties reside?

Eastern Division ☒ Central Division ☐ Western Division ☐

B. If no, in which division do the majority of the plaintiffs or the only parties, excluding governmental agencies, residing in Massachusetts reside?

Eastern Division ☐ Central Division ☐ Western Division ☐

8. If filing a Notice of Removal - are there any motions pending in the state court requiring the attention of this Court? (If yes, submit a separate sheet identifying the motions)

YES ☐ NO ☐

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

ATTORNEY'S NAME David Pastor

ADDRESS Gilman and Pastor, LLP, 999 Broadway, S. 500, Saugus, MA 01906

TELEPHONE NO. 781-231-7850

JS 44
(Rev. 3/99)**CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

PAULA SLICKER, On Behalf of Herself and
all Others Similarly Situated

(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF Benton (AR)
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)

David Pastor, Gilman and Pastor, LLP
999 Broadway, Suite 500
Saugus, MA 01906 (781) 231-7850

DEFENDANTS

FLEETBOSTON FINANCIAL CORPORATION
[SEE ATTACHED FOR COMPLETE LIST OF ALL
DEFENDANTS IN THIS MATTER]

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED DEFENDANT _____

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE
TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
☒ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES

(For Diversity Cases Only)

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF
AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury — Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury — Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc. <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence HABEAS CORPUS: <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck <input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs. <input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS — Third Party 26 USC 7609

V. ORIGIN

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding
☐ 2 Removed from State Court
☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
☐ 5 Transferred from another district (specify) _____
☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation
☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

(CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE.
DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY.)

Action for excessive fees in violation of Investment Company Act and
Investment Advisers Act

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 ☒

DEMAND \$ _____

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ YES ☐ NO

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE Keeton

DOCKET NUMBER 04-11704-REK

DATE

08/11/04

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

David Pastor

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # _____ AMOUNT _____ APPLYING IFP _____ JUDGE _____ MAG. JUDGE _____